HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section *Printed in Two Sections*

Ides Of April 15: Income tax day passed without untoward incident, to the relief of the U.S. Treasury. For, it might as well be admitted, the Treasury, being well-briefed on world and American trends, has felt a bit uneasy about the possibility of a tax revolt. The example of M. Poujade, the obscure French bookseller, who rose rapidly to fame by heading up a tax strike and demonstrations against tax collectors in France, has impressed some of our high bureaucrats. The Executive arm listens to sounds and murmurs from the Legislative arm, which is closer to the people, and what the legislators hear is not too reassuring — such as the statement of a veteran House member to HUMAN EVENTS:

"The situation and temper of the times are ripe for appearance of an American Poujade. If he should arise, he would enjoy a big wave of support — and not only among businessmen and farmers. I know that many factory workers in my district, earning say $100 to $125 per week, have been painfully aware of the tax burden they are bearing."

One Congressional informant reports that in his area constituents know little about Governor J. Bracken Lee of Utah and his refusal to pay income tax on part of his income, in an effort to test in the courts the right of the U.S. Government to devote tax revenues to foreign aid. Newspapers in his district, our friend says, have printed little about Lee's gesture. And the Utah Governor is apparently too busy on his own job in Salt Lake City to tour the country and spread his point of view.

In Washington, it is said that Lee realizes this situation, and therefore made his move of refusal to pay in order to dramatize the issue for the general public. However, real dramatization requires collaboration from the Treasury — that is, prosecution of Lee by the U.S. Government.

When the Governor made his move five months ago, the Treasury announced its intention to sue the Governor. So far — despite many inquiries — no word of any legal action against Lee has come from the Treasury. By this time, observers have come to the conclusion that the bureaucrats prefer to avoid the act of prosecution; they feel that a law suit would only further Lee's intention to dramatize the issue.

Those who collect and spend our tax dollars are probably aware that a head of steam is building up. As things appear now, no mere petty provincial bookseller looms to vent the accumulation of discontent. No less a person than the former Commissioner of Internal Revenue — Mr. T. Coleman Andrews — is beginning a strong attack upon the tax system. (See HUMAN EVENTS' News Section of March 24, 1956.) No one attributes any personal political ambitions to Mr. Andrews in this matter. But it is obvious that he is seriously intent on bringing the whole matter of the income tax before the Congress and the people for drastic reconsideration.

Democratic Merry-Go-Round: Truman as the Democratic nominee — after Kefauver, Stevenson and Harriman knock one another out — is an idea which is taken very, very seriously by top Democrats in Washington.

Also, David Lawrence, Frank R. Kent, Fulton Lewis, Jr., and a host of other commentators, have discussed the possibility. A *Wall Street Journal* article about Democratic fears of losing the Negro vote quotes northern liberals as saying the Democratic party should "forget the South" and aim to win the election by the 1948 formula: appeal to the Negro, Zionist and farm vote. Liberals (continues the *Journal* article) ask, who could do that better than the 1948 Miracle Man himself?

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Mr. and Mrs. Truman go abroad May 11; they return July 3. Enthusiastic ovations from countries grateful for Marshall Plan billions, and hoping for "more of the same," are expected to make favorable headlines for Truman during the fratricidal primary campaigns at home.

In private conversations, Harry makes no secret of the fact that he has little faith in the three face cards (Adlai, Estes and Averell). Only his give-em-hell tactics can win. The clear implication is that only he — the champ — can use them effectively. (See "Not Merely Gossip," page 3.)

A Gentle Campaign? No, is the increasingly clear answer to that question as it relates to the upcoming Presidential race. The Democratic party's expert at give-em-hell campaigning, y-clept Harry S. Truman, already is making that clear with his personal attacks on Mr. Eisenhower as a "do-nothing" President.

Nor is the Republican party taking it all lying down. It was buried amid the welter of stories about this week's GOP campaign-schooling sessions in Washington, but the Republican National Committee has issued a stinging rejoinder to Mr. Truman under the name of Chairman Leonard Hall. Headed "The Truman Failures," it ticks off a half-dozen Truman Administration responsibilities.

Included are the Potsdam Agreement "with free nations and millions of people being handed over to Communist domination"; "the China betrayal"; inviting the Korean War by telling Russia we considered Korea as beyond our perimeter of defense; indifference to the Red threat at home, as per the Alger Hiss and Harry Dexter White cases; and, firing General Douglas MacArthur "in star-chamber proceedings."

Putting these items together with the general tendency of Democrats in recent days to attack Mr. Eisenhower personally, Capital pundits foresee a rough and tough campaign despite the President's proclaimed desire to keep it on a fireside-chat basis.

The pundits say that if the GOP has the slightest hope of winning with a non-campaigning Presidential nominee, even one with Mr. Eisenhower's popularity, it will be essential that it choose a vigorous campaigner for the second spot. That's one of the many reasons Dick Nixon looks surer and surer for renomination.

Farm Veto: There has been — realistic observers agree — an awful lot of bunk talked by both Republicans and Democrats about the farm bill and the veto by both parties. Actually, previous farm support laws have cost the Treasury about $1 billion a year. The Administration's proposal would have cost the taxpayer $2.2 billion, only a couple hundred million less than the bill the Democrats wanted to put over. Of course, the Administration's argument was that its own bill was to be for one year only, until the soil bank theoretically reduced production and the surpluses. But agricultural experts say that this is the bunk. The farmers would lease their poor land to the Government and increase fertilization of the good land. The upshot would be continuation of surpluses.

Farmers And Labor: The principal source of farm difficulties, say Washington economists, is the continuous rise in union wages, which not only prevents the price reductions that would come from the increasing automation of industry, but are so great as to compel increases.

To illustrate what's ahead, the steel workers are asking for raises and fringe benefits costing 35 cents to 50 cents an hour. Best guess is that the industry will agree to about half that amount. Consequently, raises in steel prices of from $8 to $10 a ton are expected — and these will have to be paid by the farm machinery firms. But the latter will also have to meet the wage increases obtained by steel workers. And freight rates are going up so that in a few months farmers will have to pay $200 more per tractor. But will they recognize the source of that rise?

Agricultural experts point out that while most newspaper publishers are conservative, most of

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their columnists are New Dealish. The latter — to befuddle the farmer — proclaim that the government must give him higher support prices.

Add to the power of the New Deal columnists, the weight of the massive propaganda emanating from the AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers and the Farmers Union. Their officials — working together to build up their own political power — spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to sponsor left-wing commentators who, on many farm area networks (20 stations in Michigan, for example), blame all the farmers' troubles on Secretary Benson.

Not Merely Gossip: A former Democratic Senator, living here, relates that he received a presentation copy of President Truman's recent book. Accordingly, he wrote his old friend in Independence, Mo., thanking him and added: "Hope to see you at the Convention and trust you'll solve the inevitable stalemate by taking the top place yourself." The Senator received an acknowledgment of his note. Truman did not comment on the Senator's suggestion but neither did he reject it.

LETTERS FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS

Mary Lou Burelle — Sweet Briar College: "I rely very heavily on HUMAN EVENTS and it is 'must' reading as soon as it arrives each week. I have kept every issue of the paper since I began receiving it in my freshman year and I use the back copies constantly for reference. I am very grateful to the many good people who contribute to organizations like the ISI (Intercollegiate Society of Individualists) thus making it possible for college students like myself to receive HUMAN EVENTS."

Seldon M. Kruger — Rutgers University: "I am grateful to ISI for enabling me to read HUMAN EVENTS. I hope I may continue to receive it."

Charles Mueller — University of Cincinnati: "I feel HUMAN EVENTS must be helping others as it helped me to see behind the thick skin of party politics into what is the major issue confronting freedom-loving Americans today — the preservation of the liberties our forefathers strove so hard to secure for us by a renewed awareness of our responsibilities as free citizens."

Leo Kearney O'Drudy, Jr. — Villanova College: "Just a short note to tell you what an important place HUMAN EVENTS has found in a busy scholastic schedule. I look forward to the arrival of your newsletter weekly and find both sections a most valuable and concise interpretation of the domestic and foreign news. When my school days are over, you can be sure my student subscription will be followed by many years of regular subscriptions."

Francis X. Quinn, S.J. — Loyola Seminary: "My professional studies call for a rather detailed and well-planned schedule, but for HUMAN EVENTS, time is always set aside by me in order that it may be read and assimilated completely. It is thought-stimulating and discussion-provoking."

David W. Jayne, III — Sigma Phi, Williams College: "I wish to thank both you and ISI for making it possible for me to receive HUMAN EVENTS each week. I eagerly look forward to the news interpretation section of HUMAN EVENTS for presenting the news in a truly libertarian manner and not in the collectivist slant of our so-called greatest papers. Your articles, also, are eagerly read and reread several times, and I wish to especially thank you for the portraits of Knowland and Lausche. It is a shame that the nation's voters will not in all probability have the opportunity to vote for men of this calibre next November but will be forced to decide between alternative forms of the same 'ism' — Liberalism."

● Pinkos and Communists who have sought to scuttle, by amendment, the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act have met with defeat for the legislative plans in this session of Congress. The elevation of conservative Senator James Eastland (D., Miss.) to the Chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee before which legislative moves must come, has put an end to the leftist scheme for this year, according to general opinion on Capitol Hill. However — say observers — that does not mean that these subversive forces will suspend action until next year. It is believed by those in the know that the leftist organizations will now work in various constituencies and states for the defeat of Representatives and Senators who have been unyielding supporters of the McCarran-Walter bill. One such marked target of these forces is Senator Herman Welker, Republican of Idaho, now seeking renomination and re-election.

● Watch for startling revelations about how U.S. subversives get passports, go abroad and attend anti-American rallies in Soviet satellites — all because of the weakening of our passport regulations in the past six months. Left-wing "liberal" blackmail has forced relaxation of formerly severe State Department screening of applicants for visas and passports. Watch for — in addition — a stern measure to put an end to this coddling of Reds when they wish to go abroad. The measure is already in a drafting room in the House of Representatives and its sponsors have a wealth of expert evidence to back it up, when it receives hearings in committee very soon.

Education Front: Much dissatisfaction looms among conservative legislators about the report of the Committee for the White House Conference on Education. The report proposes Federal aid for school construction on a temporary basis and alleges a school-building "emergency"; but it presents no evidence of the existence of any such emergency nor of inability of local authorities to shoulder such responsibilities and burdens themselves.

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But a Hoosier educator has filed a minority, dissenting report to the President, which is attracting much notice. Dr. Frank Sparks, former head of Wabash College in Indiana and reportedly a candidate for governor of that state this year, asserts that Federal aid to education is an "entering wedge" for federalization of schools. Sparks says: "Schools should be located, financed and managed by the smallest unit of population consistent with good educational and economic practices." He goes on to say that the schoolroom shortage is "not so great but that practically every state in the nation can meet it with reasonable adequacy if there is a will to do so."

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has come out for the Sparks dissenting report. The Chamber says that "one of the reasons why Federal aid for school construction seems so attractive is that it looks like something for nothing. Of course, this is a fallacy. Actually you pay twice, and more, for Federal aid." The Chamber also warns of the "very probable loss of control over school construction in your community. For the bill provides that a Federal administrator would have control over priority of construction projects, standards for planning and building schools and wage and hour standards of labor. What's more you'll pay the administrator for telling you what to do."

The Chamber concludes its statement: "Is this the way American parents want their schools built? Our entire history refutes this view."

Teamsters' Troubles: The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, discussed at length in the article "Highway Robbery" in the March 3 HUMAN EVENTS, may be headed for a comeuppance; but skeptical observers will have to see it to believe it.

Following a three-hour meeting this week with Teamsters' President Dave Beck, AFL-CIO President George Meany announced that he is summoning a special session of the AFL-CIO Executive Council to meet May 1 to consider the Teamsters' working agreement with the International Longshoremen's Association.

The ILA was expelled by the old AFL in 1953 because of racketeer-gangster domination; there has been no discernible improvement since. Nevertheless, Jimmy Hoffa, vice president of the Teamsters' Union and its real power in the eastern part of the country, last winter negotiated a pact whereby the Teamsters and the ILA pledged mutual assistance on such matters as organizing campaigns and picket lines.

The agreement originally called for three Teamsters' Welfare Funds to advance $400,000 to the ILA to pay off old debts. This was abandoned in a meeting of the Teamsters' Executive Board in Honolulu last month after Meany had stated his belief that the pact violated the AFL-CIO Constitution's prohibition against aid or recognition to any union expelled by the pre-merger AFL or CIO.

The Teamsters apparently thought dropping the loan idea would meet Meany's objections; apparently they were wrong. Said Beck after his conference with Meany, "we didn't accomplish anything."

The only available disciplinary action against the Teamsters presumably would be suspension from the AFL-CIO. That the union moguls would vote for such drastic action seems highly unlikely, in view of the repercussions which undoubtedly would follow, such as wholesale raiding of memberships of other unions, by the Teamsters.

However, if Meany so recommends, and the Council follows his recommendation, he would be established firmly as the most powerful figure there has been in the American organized labor movement in a good many years.

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Article Section

THE TRUMAN SCANDALS

By JULES ABELS

This article is an 1800-word extract from the sensational fully-documented book *The Truman Scandals* by Jules Abels, distinguished attorney and economist. The book is published by the Henry Regnery Company for release May 15. See Page 4 of this Article Section for our special offer.

"Scandals in Government are not a new phenomena. What seems to be new about these scandals is the moral blindness or callousness which allows those in responsible positions to accept the practices which the facts reveal. It is bad enough for us to have corruption in our midst, but it is worse if it is to be condoned and accepted as inevitable."

— SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT,
Democrat from Arkansas,
March, 1951

PRIOR to the Presidency of Harry Truman, there had been two administrations in which corruption had reached to the heart of the administration — that of Ulysses S. Grant and that of Warren G. Harding.

Both Grant and Harding reacted keenly to the disclosures of corruption in their administrations.

President Grant received a letter from a St. Louis banker which quoted revenue officials as saying Grant could not give them up for fear that their disclosures might hurt the administration. Grant at once referred it to Secretary of the Treasury Bristow, on July 29, 1875:

> . . . I forward this for information and to the end that if it throws any light upon new parties to summon as witness, they may be brought out. *Let no guilty man escape if it can be avoided.* Be specially vigilant — or instruct those engaged in the prosecution of fraud to be — against all who insinuate that they have high influence to protect — or to protect them. No personal consideration should stand in the way of performing a public duty.

TEAPOT DOME killed President Harding. Prior to his last trip, his journey to Alaska, Harding had apparently learned the truth from his own sources. Samuel Hopkins Adams, in *The Timely Death of President Harding,* gives this vivid description of the last days aboard train:

> From Tacoma on, the President was in a state of chronic jitters. To escape from thinking, he organized a bridge game with Secretaries Wallace, Work and Howe, Speaker Gillett and Admiral Rodman. The President played to exhaustion, twelve, fourteen or fifteen hours a day.
>
> By the time the West Coast was reached, his nervous demoralization was painfully apparent. He sought out Secretary Hoover. "Mr. Secretary," he said, "there's a bad scandal brewing in the administration."

Hoover, who had an inkling of what it was all about, urged the President to meet the scandals with public frankness, but the President's tension and anxiety were not assuaged. He died a few days later.

The new President was Calvin Coolidge. He appointed two special prosecutors, ousted Secretary of the Navy Denby, and fired Attorney General Daugherty without haggling when Daugherty refused to open up Justice Department files. In January 1924, Coolidge said:

> If there has been any crime, it must be prosecuted — no one will be shielded for any party, political or other reason . . . if there is any guilt it will be punished, if there is any

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fraud, it will be revealed; and if there are any contracts which are illegal, they will be cancelled.

ALL PREVIOUS CASES of corruption, serious as they were, are very small compared with those of the Truman Administration. Never had there been so much corruption practiced by so many public officials in so many different places.

Corruption invaded almost every department of the government, not only in Washington but all over the country. The tax collection machinery of the nation was infested with graft from top to bottom.

The civil recovery in Teapot Dome amounted to $13 million. The amount lost through the wholesale tax frauds, alone, of the Truman Administration, must have run into the billions.

The loss of the graft-ridden G.I. educational programs ran into the "hundreds of millions." In the Section 608 swindles under FHA, profits of 20,000 per cent in less than two years were not uncommon, as we have seen, and one financing company netted $26 million.

Teapot Dome and other cases of corruption were isolated transactions of individuals accomplished by stealth. The cases in the Truman era were a continuous band covering many agencies and localities.

Instead of taking effective action to wipe out corruption, Truman was, in some cases, protecting the wrongdoers; in other cases, he was indifferent, and in other cases, he blocked and thwarted the investigators of corruption.

Truman's Association With the Corruption

BOSS TOM PENDERGAST gave Harry Truman his first political job as "judge of the county court" (that is, county commissioner) of Jackson County because he was recommended by his nephew Jim Pendergast. In his *Memoirs,* Truman says that Pendergast asked nothing of him. He did not have to ask anything of Judge Truman; there was only one concrete company, the Ready-Mixed Concrete Company, supplying the building projects voted by the county commission. It was owned by Pendergast.

In 1934, Pendergast was on the defensive because of bloody and shocking outrages in the March elections. Needing a candidate not too prominently identified with him, he chose Harry Truman for the Senate; in a three-way fight, Truman won the nomination. His statewide plurality was 41,000 votes; Jackson County and Kansas City gave him 138,423 votes to the combined votes of his two opponents of 10,437. That measures his debt to Pendergast who could dispose of up to 60,000 "ghost" votes.

In the same year, Roosevelt appointed Maurice Milligan, U.S. Attorney for Western Missouri. He broke the Pendergast machine, securing 259 convictions for frauds in the 1936 elections, and Tom Pendergast himself went to jail for income tax evasion in 1939.

In February 1938, Senator Truman attacked Milligan violently on the floor of the Senate saying that "a Jackson County, Missouri, Democrat has as much chance of a fair trial in the Federal District Court of Western Missouri as a Jew would have in a Hitler court." A Republican Senator arose to ask Senator Truman if he wished to go on record as condoning vote frauds.

In 1945, when Pendergast died, the Vice President flew out to his funeral. A few weeks after Truman became President, he fired Maurice Milligan. In his place he appointed Sam Wear as U.S. Attorney; Wear had been chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Missouri. He pardoned fifteen of the Pendergast people who had been in prison for the vote fraud.

On December 7, 1945, the President wrote to Jim Pendergast, Tom Pendergast's nephew, who was the heir to the Pendergast machine: "Dear Jim: I am enclosing you a check for $6 in payment of my Jackson Democratic Club dues. I hope the outfit is still going good. Sincerely yours, Harry."

ON JULY 18, 1946, President Truman announced that he opposed the renomination of Congressman Roger C. Slaughter from the Fifth District of Missouri, which included Kansas City. Slaughter had offended him by his vote in the House Committee on Rules to bottle up the FEPC Bill which the President considered politically important for the 1946 Congressional elections. The President favored Enos Axtell.

The President himself went to Kansas City on primary day to lend his prestige to his fight against Slaughter. Axtell won by 2,300 votes. He lost in November, but the President had purged Mr. Slaughter.

The primary was as crooked as any ever held even in Kansas City. In many precincts, Slaughter received no votes. In four wards, the vote was 6 to 1 in favor of Axtell. The *Kansas City Star* cried fraud. It sent around investigators

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to collect affidavits, and over 1,000 were collected.

In October, the general clamor forced Attorney General Tom Clark (now on the U.S. Supreme Court) to permit an FBI investigation of the vote.

U.S. Attorney Sam Wear submitted a highly misleading synopsis of the FBI report to three Federal judges who concluded there was no basis for a grand jury investigation. These judges testified that on the basis of the full FBI report, their opinion would have been different. A Jackson County grand jury declared that evidence showed that "there had been a deliberate and calculated plan to miscount votes and otherwise steal the election." It said Slaughter had been deprived of the nomination by fraud. All ballots and records used by the jury in investigation were returned to the vaults of the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners for safekeeping.

Attorney General Clark was called to testify about the FBI report before a Senate Subcommittee. While he was on the witness stand, Senator Ferguson, the chairman, announced he had just received a wire from Kansas City: "Last night primary ballots were stolen from election commissioner vault."

The vault in Kansas City had been blown open with nitroglycerin and the ballots and other records needed for prosecution had been stolen.

The President had been sleeping in a hotel three blocks away when the theft was carried out.

Before the explosion, seventy-one persons had been indicted; but without the evidence, prosecution was fruitless.

The report of Senator Ferguson, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, condemned Clark: "The replies of the Attorney General indicate an intentional misrepresentation of facts to a member of the United States Senate in answer to an official inquiry." The report pointed out that in Clark's own file, there were 28 memos with a summary of evidence showing that 159 persons were shown to vote who did not vote; 10 persons voted who were not on the election records and 14 persons could not vote because they had already been voted.

All in the Department of Justice who took part in the Kansas City vote fraud case were rewarded. Tom Clark was promoted to the U.S. Supreme Court. Peyton Ford built an administrative empire and went on to become Deputy Attorney General. Herbert Bergson moved ahead to become head of the anti-trust division. The Chelf subcommittee pointed out that William Holloran who did the "leg work" in the case "got a coveted assignment in the overseas branch of the anti-trust division" — far removed from the interrogations of Congressional committees. T. Lamar Caudle, Assistant Attorney General, was given the choice plum of the management of the tax division of the Department of Justice.

The Truman years constitute the great Plunder Period in U.S. History. Tax revenues increased from under $10 billion to over $60 billion. Thousands of businesses could save untold amounts of money by getting a nod from the right Treasury official. One man's say-so could mean the difference of a million dollars, and if an individual was in a ninety per cent income bracket, he would have to earn $10 million in income to get the equivalent of that $1 million nod.

There was gravy in Government loans, particularly in the huge loans being made by the RFC in which decisions were made on purely arbitrary grounds. There was gravy in Government contracts. There was a huge Government surplus for sale.

There were permits worth a million dollars or more to be given out for radio-TV stations by the Federal Communications system and equally valuable new routes for the embryonic airline industry.

These privileges could lay the foundations of fortunes for decades to come.

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by JULES ABELS

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